

Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6-8, 11, 14, 15, 20, and 22-30 are currently pending. Claims 1, 6, 11, 14, 15, and 20 have been amended. Claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16-19, and 21 have been canceled. Claims 24-30 have been added. Applicants assert that the claims are now in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

Interview Summary

The undersigned participated in a telephone interview with the Examiner on July 20, 2004. During the interview, deficiencies in the McAllister and Heinmiller references were discussed. Namely it was discussed how neither reference discloses a database accessible by the service control point that contains authentication information associated with the home services to be provisioned to the caller. Furthermore, it was discussed how neither reference discloses a look-up of the authentication information from the caller within one database resulting in finding the authentication information and home services. Instead, McAllister relies on a look-up of authentication information by the IP at one database, while another look-up must later be done by the services control point within another database to find the relevant services. Heinmiller looks up encrypted caller ID information to determine if it is valid and should be passed on to the called party, as opposed to looking up authentication information to find services information. It was agreed that an amendment would be filed to incorporate these features into the claims.

103 Rejections

Previously pending claims 1-20, 22, and 23 stood rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over McAllister (US Pat 5,978,450) in view of Heinmiller (US Pat 6,101,246). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 1, 2, 5, and 24

The Office Action has rejected claim 1 by stating that McAllister teaches all of the elements except the service control point comparing the received authentication information with authentication and verification information stored in the line database.

However, the Office Action further states that Heinmiller teaches a service control point comparing received authentication information with authentication and verification information stored in a database so that the combination of McAllister and Heinmiller renders claim 1 obvious.

Amended claim 1 recites, among other things, that a line database stores authentication information and services information associated with the authentication information regarding home telephone services provisioned on the subscriber's home telephone line. Claim 1 further recites that after the service control point acquires the authentication information from the subscriber through the switch, the service control point performs a look-up of the received authentication information within the line database to find the authentication information and the associated services information stored in the line database. Additionally, claim 1 recites that the service control point provides the information regarding the home telephone services that is found by the look-up to the switch if the received authentication information and the authentication information obtained from the line database matches.

Neither McAllister nor Heinmiller discloses these features. Rather than having the home services associated with the authentication information so that the service control point can do a look-up of received authentication information to find stored authentication information and the home services, McAllister requires a first look-up in a first database by the IP to find authentication information. Then, after routing to the services control point, McAllister requires that another look-up be performed in another database accessible by the service control point to find the home services. Thus, McAllister requires multiple look-ups involving multiple databases and therefore, fails to teach the recited elements.

Heinmiller also does not disclose these features of claim 1 because Heinmiller discloses receiving encrypted caller ID data at a service control point, and analyzing the encrypted caller ID data to determine whether it is valid and whether it should be passed on to a called party. There is no look-up of authentication information in a database to find matching authentication information and to find associated services information. Thus, Heinmiller also fails to disclose a database that is accessible by a service control point that includes services associated with authentication information where the

authentication information received from a caller is looked-up to then find stored authentication information and the associated services. Furthermore, Heinmiller does not perform any actions at the service control point based on authentication information entered by the subscriber as the encrypted caller ID information of Heinmiller is not entered by the caller but is instead generated by the SSP in response to the subscriber placing a call. Thus, Heinmiller also fails to teach the recited elements.

Also, in addition to the attempted combination failing to teach all of the elements of claim 1, there is also no motivation to combine McAllister with Heinmiller or any other reference that involves authentication activities at the service control point because McAllister teaches away from such modification. McAllister suggests that if the disclosed system for authenticating is to be modified, then the modification should occur by moving the authentication duties away from the IP and into the switch, which eliminates the need to route information beyond the switch to perform the authentication. Attempting to modify McAllister by combining it with another reference that provides for routing of information to a new location, such as a service control point, for the purpose of authentication would require the additional routing of information beyond the switch. Thus, the proposed modifications of McAllister teach away from modifying McAllister to route information beyond the switch or IP for the purpose of authentication such that there is no motivation to combine McAllister with Heinmiller.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 is allowable over the cited combination of McAllister and Heinmiller. Dependent claims 2, 5, and 24 depend from an allowable claim 1 and are also allowable for at least the same reasons. Furthermore, new claim 24 recites that the line database further includes billing parameters associated with the authentication information that specify that bills go to an account corresponding to the home telephone of the subscriber such that the completed call is billed to the account corresponding to the home telephone. Therefore, claim 24 contains additional features that are patentable over the cited combination.

Claims 6-8 and 25

The Office Action states that McAllister also teaches all of the elements of claim 6 except does not teach authenticating the caller at a service control point by comparing

the authentication information received from the caller and authentication and verification information stored in a database. However, the Office Action further states that Heinmiller teaches these elements such that the combination of McAllister and Heinmiller renders claim 6 obvious.

Amended claim 6 recites, among other things, performing a look-up of the entered authentication information within a line database to find authentication information and to find home services information associated with the authentication information that is stored in the database and authenticating the caller at a service control point by comparing the authentication information received from the caller with the authentication information found in the database. Claim 6 further recites delivering the home service information found in the database to the switch if the authentication information received from the caller matches the stored authentication information.

Again, neither McAllister nor Heinmiller discloses these elements of claim 6. Neither discloses performing a look-up of authentication information entered by a caller within a database to find both authentication information and home services information. Furthermore, as noted above, McAllister teaches away from such a combination that would require routing of information beyond the switch or IP, such as to the SCP. Accordingly, claim 6 is allowable over the cited combination for at least these reasons.

Dependent claims 7 and 8 depend from an allowable claim 6 and are also allowable for at least the same reasons. Furthermore, new claim 25 recites that the line database further includes billing parameters associated with the authentication information that specify that bills go to an account corresponding to the home telephone of the caller, and the method further comprises obtaining the billing parameters from the look-up of the entered authentication information to bill the call to the account corresponding to the home telephone. Therefore, claim 25 contains additional features that are patentable over the cited combination.

Claims 11, 14, and 15

The Office Action states that McAllister teaches all of the elements of claim 11 except for the service control point receiving the entered authentication and verification information and comparing the received information with authentication and verification

information stored in a database. However, the Office Action states that Heinmiller teaches these elements such that the combination renders claim 11 obvious.

Amended claim 11 recites, among other things, means for sending the authentication information to the service control point, wherein the service control point receives the entered authentication information and performs a look-up of the received authentication information within a line database to find authentication information and home services provisioned on the caller's home telephone line that are associated with the authentication information. Claim 11 further recites that the service control point compares the received authentication information with authentication information stored in the line database and recites a means for receiving a message containing the home services provisioned on the caller's home telephone line that is sent from the service control point once the received authentication information has been matched with the authentication information from the line database.

Neither McAllister nor Heinmiller teaches these elements. There is no teaching in these references of a service control point receiving entered authentication information and then performing a look-up of the received authentication information to find authentication information and associated home services in a line database. Also, there is no motivation for combining the references due to McAllister teaching away from such a modification. Accordingly, claim 11 is allowable over the cited references for at least these reasons.

Dependent claims 14, 15, and 26 depend from an allowable claim 11 and are also allowable for at least the same reasons. Furthermore, new claim 26 recites the line database further includes billing parameters associated with the authentication information that specify that bills go to an account corresponding to the home telephone of the caller such that the completed call is billed to the account corresponding to the home telephone. Therefore, claim 26 contains additional features that are patentable over the cited combination.

Claims 20, 22, 23, and 27

The Office Action states that McAllister teaches all of the elements of claim 20 except confirming the subscriber at the service control point. However, the Office Action

states that Heinmiller teaches that it was well known to have a service control point receive validation and authentication information entered by the caller and compare the received information with validation and authentication information stored in a database.

Amended claim 20 recites, among other things, performing by the service control point a look-up of the transmitted authorization information within a line database to find authentication information and telephone services provisioned on the subscriber's home telephone line associated with the authentication information and confirming the subscriber at the service control point is a valid user on the basis of comparison of the authorization information from the subscriber to the authentication information of the line database. Claim 20 further recites returning the telephone services provisioned on the subscriber's home telephone line to the switch if the subscriber is a valid user.

Neither McAllister nor Heinmiller discloses a service control point performing a look-up of authorization information entered by a caller within a line database to find both authentication information and telephone services as recited in claim 20. Furthermore, McAllister teaches away from the modification resulting from such a combination. Therefore, claim 20 is allowable over the cited combination for at least these reasons.

Dependent claims 22, 23, and 27 depend from an allowable claim 20 and are also allowable for at least the same reasons. Furthermore, new claim 27 recites the line database further includes billing parameters associated with the authentication information that specify that bills go to an account corresponding to the home telephone of the subscriber, and that the method further comprises obtaining the billing parameters from the look-up of the transmitted authentication information to bill the call to the account corresponding to the home telephone. Therefore, claim 27 contains additional features patentable over the cited combination.

New claims 28-30

New claims 28-30 recite a computer readable medium having instructions. Acts resulting from execution of the instructions by one or more computers are all disclosed throughout the detailed description including reference to FIGS. 1 and 2 such that there is no new matter being introduced. These acts include, among other things, performing a

look-up of the received authentication information within a line database to find the authentication information and services information associated with the authentication information that are stored in the line database and to determine whether the received authentication information matches the stored authentication information. Upon finding that the received authentication information matches the stored authentication information, the telephone call is completed using the telephone services provisioned on the subscriber's home telephone line that are specified by the services information that are found during the look-up of the received authentication information. Accordingly claim 28 and dependent claims 29 and 30 are also allowable over the combination of McAllister and Heinmiller.

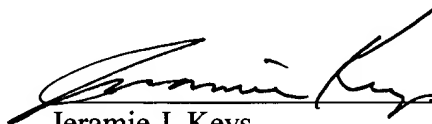
Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 1, 2, 5, 6-8, 11, 14, 15, 20, and 22-30 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees beyond the noted fee for continued examination and a one month extension of time are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 26, 2004


Jeramie J. Keys
Reg. No. 42,724

Withers & Keys, LLC
P.O. Box 71355
Marietta, Ga 30007-1355
(404) 849.2093